Transfer of oil and gas blocks to private companies

3500. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil or gas blocks, discovered by ONGC and other related PSUs which have been transferred to private multinational companies through open bid;

(b) whether it is a fact that the development cost incurred by the PSUs are not being realised from the private and multinational companies; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that private and multinational oil companies are enjoying extra benefits through waiver of social responsibilities of PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) 29 oil and gas blocks discovered by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL), have been awarded to private and multinational companies through international competitive bidding. 28 Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed. For one block, the PSC is being finalized.

(b) The bids for discovered fields were invited through international competitive bidding system on specified terms and conditions. The total Government take such as royalty, cess, profit petroleum, signature bonus, production bonus, past cost etc. offered by various bidding companies was the criteria for evaluation. Reimbursement of past cost incurred by ONGC or OIL in form of signature bonus, production bonus or in the form of past cost, was one of the criteria of evaluation.

The awards were based on total Government take.

(c) The rights and obligations of the Government and companies are governed by the provisions of the PSC and there is no question of Government waiving any obligation of the contractors.

HPCL's Refinery Project in Saudi Arabia

3501. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the HPCL is considering to set up refinery facility in Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;